Chartered Patent Agents
European Patent Attorneys
Trade Mark Agents

Telephone 071-242 0901
Fax 071-242 3290/0286
Telex 25445
DX 280

Reddie & Grose

16 Theobalds Road
London WC1X 8PL

P. Antony Smith M.A.
F.A.B. Valentine M.A.
Richard C. Abnett M.A.
Paul A. Brereton M.A.
Keith E. Geering B.A.
Nicholas S. Marlow B.Sc.
Linda J. Harland B.Sc.
Jonathan M. Davies D.Phil
Patrick A.D. Lloyd B.Sc.
Aidan J. Robson M.Sc.

D.S. Jackson B.Sc.
J.J. Day B.Sc.
Andrew G. White B.Eng.

Consultants
David A. Pears M.A.
John H. Bass B.Sc.

Our VAT No. GB 243 9087 49

AIRMAIL
Philip Morris Management Corp.,
Law Department, Patent Section,
P.O. Box 26583,
Richmond, Virginia 23261-6583,
United States of America.

20th December 1993
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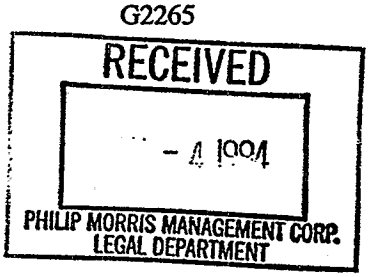

For the attention of J.E. Schardt Esq.,
Assistant General Counsel

Dear Jim,

Japanese Patent Applications Nos. 341216/90, 341215/90, 125634/91, 341217/90, 86264/92, 163693/92
Your Refs: PM 1335, PM 1337, PM 1475, PM 1345, PM 1481, PM 1485
Our Files: 31754, 31787, 31788, 31823, 33204, 33426
and JTI Search - Our File: G2265

Thank you for your facsimile letter of 9th December 1993. I have now instructed our Japanese associates to request examination of these applications at once. Where appropriate, I have instructed them to replace the present claims by amended claims filed on the corresponding European application; full details will be included when report that examination has been requested.

I have also instructed our Japanese associates to conduct a search in the name of Japan Tobacco Inc. (or their predecessors) for "alternative smoking system" applications. I have asked them to go back 10 years, since we are aware of similar applications, for example, Reynolds, which go back almost that far.

I will report to you shortly with the results of my own search for EPO applications of interest, but at present it does not seem likely that anything of interest will be found.

Yours sincerely,

N. Marlow

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